

J. H. BAXTER &amp; CO., a California Limited Partnership

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December 17, 2001

Kim Ogle, RCRA Project Manager  
United States EPA, Region 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101

Re: December 15, 2001 Progress Report  
J. H. Baxter Arlington Facility  
Docket No. RCRA-10-2001-0086

Dear Ms. Ogle:

This letter provides the December 15, 2001 progress report for work completed under the Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) for the J. H. Baxter facility during the period November 15, 2001 to December 15, 2001.

### SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS THIS PERIOD

This section discusses significant developments for the referenced reporting period, including actions performed and any problems encountered relative to work required by the Order. Significant developments that occurred on this project during this reporting period are outlined below:

- We received EPA's conditional approval of the Excess Stormwater Management Work Plan QAPP on November 16, 2001. The approval required resubmittal of the ESM QAPP by December 5, 2001 with modifications per the EPA. Revision 2 of the QAPP was resubmitted on December 5, 2001.
- On November 21, 2001 we received the contained-out determination from the Department of Ecology indicating that Baxter's does not need to manage the treated stormwater as listed dangerous waste provided the following conditions are met:
  - Compliance with the requirements stated in the ESM Work Plan;
  - All stormwater treatment confirmation analytical data is submitted to Ecology;
  - LDR waste water limits are met for K001, F027, and F032 hazardous constituents;



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Kim Ogle, RCRA Project Manager  
December 17, 2001

7026-20  
Page 2

- LDR waste water limits are met for K001, F027, and F032 hazardous constituents;
  - MTCA Method B groundwater cleanup levels are met for all constituents in treated stormwater including total equivalent 2,3,7,8-TCDD (dioxins/furans); and
  - The infiltration of treated stormwater is protective of human health and the environment.
- The Excess Stormwater Management System's design began following EPA's approval of these sections of the ESM Work Plan on September 10, 2001. Given the QAPP disapproval on September 10, 2001, and in particular, the requirement for dioxin monitoring and treatment, the design is being reviewed with respect to meeting this requirement. This review process has delayed the schedule for procurement and installation of the system as discussed in last month's Progress Report. We are on schedule (per Table 3 of the ESM Work Plan) given the EPA's conditional ESM QAPP approval on November 16, 2001. However, there may still be engineering issues with the Excess Stormwater Management treatment system relative to meeting the dioxin requirements imposed by the State and EPA.
- The new topographic map for the site has been completed and is being submitted as Attachment D to this report.
- A meeting was held with EPA on November 20, 2001 to introduce Premier as part of the project team and to review the proposed reorganization of the Work Plan and Site Conceptual Model. Also discussed was the application of the Area of Contamination policy and implementing contingency investigations as necessary to complete the site characterization prior to preparing the SI Report.
- A meeting was held with the EPA on December 7, 2001 to discuss the scope of work for the SI Work Plan. The key issues discussed included;
  - Randomizing surface soil sample locations in the untreated and treated pole storage areas,
  - Changes to the evaluation of the air pathways using currently available data and direct soil and sediment sampling. The modeling approach introduced in Revision 0 of the SI Work Plan has been retained should it not be possible to

Kim Ogle, RCRA Project Manager  
December 17, 2001

7026-20  
Page 3

obtain the exposure data from the currently available worker safety data and by direct soil sampling,

- Using a two-step process to evaluate the presence of NAPL. The initial evaluation will be done using boreholes. Data collected from the boreholes will be used to help design and place monitoring/recovery wells for further NAPL sampling and recovery,
- Using multiple steps to investigate the extent of the dissolved-phase groundwater plume north of the closed Wood Waste Landfill; first with boreholes and grab groundwater samples, then through the installation of long-term monitoring wells to be located in consultation with EPA.

### **ANTICIPATED DEVELOPMENTS NEXT PERIOD**

This section discusses developments anticipated during the next reporting period and includes a schedule of actions to be performed.

- The SI Work Plan will be resubmitted to EPA on December 19, 2001.
- The second round of the off-site drinking water sampling and analysis will be performed during the week of January 14, 2002, in accordance with the EPA approved Drinking Water Sampling and Alternate Water Supply Work Plan, dated May 2001. Notification letters will be sent to all identified well owners in accordance with the work plan. EPA is scheduled to conduct split sampling during this event.

### **ANTICIPATED PROBLEMS AND PROBLEM RESOLUTION**

This section discusses anticipated problems, and planned resolution of past or anticipated problems.

- The storm water design is being re-evaluated in light of the performance criteria identified in contained-out determination, specifically the requirement to achieve the MTCA Method B cleanup level for dioxins. J.H. Baxter believes that although the best available technology will be used to remove the dioxin in the storm water, there may be detections in excess of 0.6 pg/L TEQ

Kim Ogle, RCRA Project Manager  
December 17, 2001

7026-20  
Page 4

of dioxin. To address this issue, resolution options will be explored with both the State and EPA within the next reporting period.

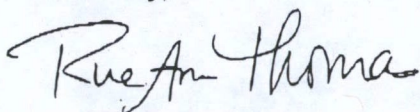
## OTHER INFORMATION

Any other information relevant to the Order is discussed in this section, including results of any sampling or testing completed within the reporting period.

- The results of the October 2001 drain sampling and groundwater sampling (related to the landfill closure monitoring and the State Waste Discharge Permit) are included as Attachments A, B, and C to this letter. Please note that the BXN data is related to a closed woodwaste landfill located about 1/2 mile north of this Baxter site. It is included only because the laboratory reported it on the same certificate.

We trust this letter meets the intent of the Progress Report per Paragraph 71 of the AOC. If you have any questions, please contact me at 541-689-3801.

Sincerely,



RueAnn Thomas  
Environmental Programs Director, J.H. Baxter

Attachment A. Stormwater Untreated Drain Sampling Data, October 2001  
Attachment B. Landfill BXS and BXN Groundwater Monitoring Data, October 2001  
Attachment C. State Waste Discharge Permit Groundwater Monitoring, October 2001  
Attachment D. Topographic Site Plan by Clark Leeman

cc: Georgia Baxter, J. H. Baxter  
Mary Larson, J. H. Baxter  
Sara Beth Watson, Steptoe and Johnson  
Will Abercrombie, Hart Crowser Inc.  
Les Brewer, Premier Environmental Inc.

## facsimile transmittal

To: Kim Ogle Fax: 206-553-8509  
From: RueAnn Thomas *RueAnn* Date: 12/17/2001  
Re: December 15, 2001 Progress Report Pages: 5  
CC:  
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Notes: This is the December 15, 2001 Progress Report. I am Federal Expressing the original letter and the attachments to your attention today. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 541-689-3801.